

Life-Giving Water

MMR-CEE-LGW-P02



Rakhine State, Myanmar



Water

2 Year Project: Jan 2024 - Dec 2025

Total Budget: \$70,000



Overview

This project improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in ten villages across Myauk U and Kyauktaw townships in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Through training of facilitators and community-led education, households gained knowledge in hygiene practices, water filtration, and sanitation. Bio-sand filters (BSFs) were constructed to provide clean drinking water, and support was given to improve sanitation facilities. Targeting both Buddhist and Muslim communities, the project addressed urgent needs following Cyclone Mocha, where contaminated water sources increased disease risk. Overall, the initiative strengthened community health, reduced waterborne illnesses, and built local capacity for sustainable WASH practices.

Objectives



Training by
WASH
facilitators

4 facilitators coordinated the installation of the fiber BSFs and community awareness activities, helping villagers understand how to use and maintain the filters properly. They also supported follow-up visits and worked closely with local community members to build ownership.



Production of
hand-made
bio-sand filters

300 fiber BSFs were installed in six villages, benefiting 5,860 people. This gave households access to clean drinking water and helped reduce waterborne diseases while improving hygiene and overall wellbeing.



Community-
led training in
hygiene and
sanitation

Training in hygiene and sanitation equipped villagers with knowledge linking poor sanitation and contaminated water to disease. They now practice handwashing after toilet use and food prep, and better separate animals from food areas.



75 toilets
were
constructed

giving 75 households and 380 people access to toilets in 4 villages. Toilets improve health by preventing disease and protecting water sources from contamination. They support productivity by keeping people healthier, and provide privacy and safety, especially for women and girls.



Life change

- Households now have access to clean drinking water at home.
- Families are healthier, with fewer waterborne illnesses.
- Children can attend school more regularly because they are sick less often.
- Communities now understand and practice safer hygiene and water-use habits.



Daw Sandar's Story

My name is Daw Sandar and I am from the Rakhine State. As a 32-year-old widow raising my ten-month-old daughter, life has been extremely difficult. Access to safe drinking water was a constant struggle, making daily survival a challenge. Since receiving a Bio-Sand Filter, our family now has clean, safe water for drinking and cooking. Illnesses caused by unsafe water have significantly decreased, improving our health and well-being. The filter is easy to use and maintain, and its benefits have inspired neighboring villages. Clean water has truly been life-saving for us.



U Ba Zan's Story

My name is U Ba Zan, and I live with my family in northern Rakhine State. For years, we drank water directly from the lake, unaware of the health risks, and many in our village often fell ill from waterborne diseases. During the civil war, finding clean water has become even more difficult, adding fear and hardship to our daily lives. With the fiberglass Bio-Sand Filter, we can now purify lake water easily, and my family has experienced noticeably better health. The filter is light, portable, and simple to maintain, bringing safety, peace of mind, and hope to our daily lives. Seeing the difference it has made, our neighbors have also started using the filter, improving the health of the wider community.

